Boku To Miraiya No Natsu

VOLUME 1 CHAPTER 4

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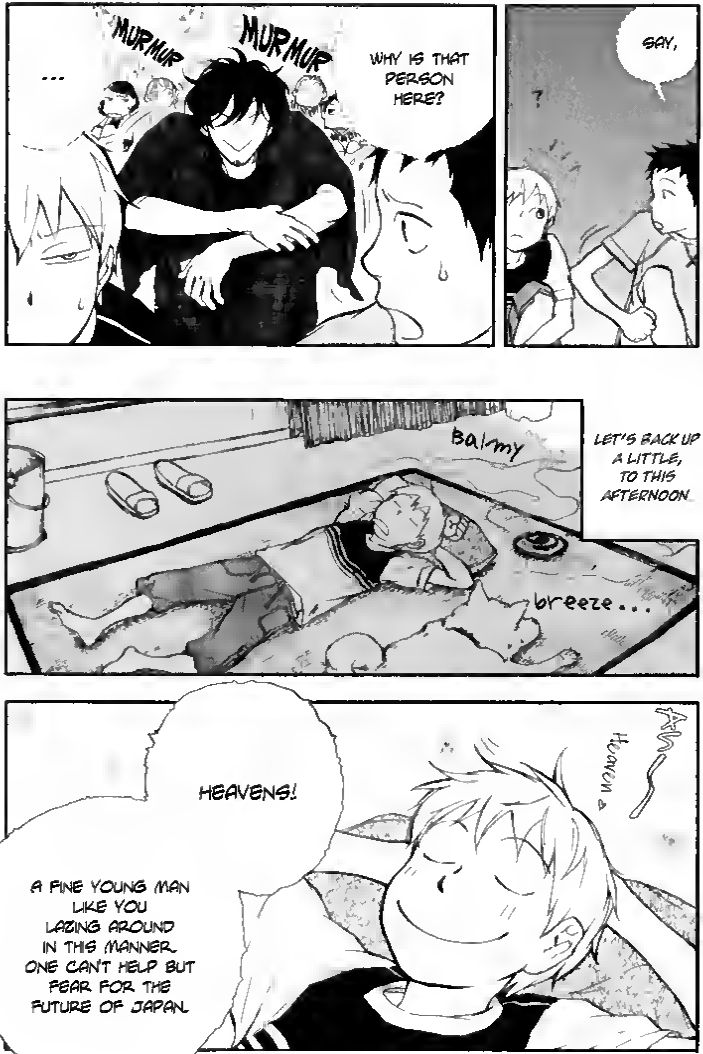
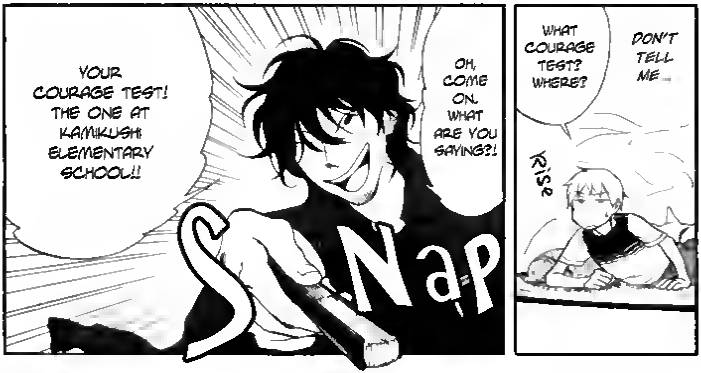
Bzz Bzz Bzz
Bzz Bzz Bzz Bzz
Bzz Bzz Bzz Bzz Bzz Bzz
Chatter Chatter
DID YOU KNOW...
THAT IN THE PAST, THIS SCHOOL WAS CALLED "THE MAN-EATING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL?"

Chapter 4　The Miraiya and the Courage Challenge – Part 1


MURMUR
MURMUR
...
WHY IS THAT PERSON HERE?
SAY,
?
LET'S BACK UP A LITTLE, TO THIS AFTERNOON.
Balmy
breeze...
Ahh
Heaven
HEAVENS!
A FINE YOUNG MAN LIKE YOU LAZING AROUND IN THIS MANNER. ONE CAN'T HELP BUT FEAR FOR THE FUTURE OF JAPAN.

I'LL GET SUNSTROKE IF I GO OUT NOW. BESIDES, I'M SCARED OF SKIN CANCER, TOO.
Nod Nod?
AREN'T YOU GOING OUT TO PLAY?
THIS VOICE THAT SOUNDS LIKE IT'S EMANATING FROM HELL IS—
WHAT ABOUT YOU, NEKOYANAGI-SAN? DON'T YOU HAVE TO GO TO WORK?
THE FUTURE WOULD ROT IN NO TIME IN WEATHER THIS HOT. I WOULDN'T MAKE ANY MONEY.
I'VE ALSO DECIDED TO TAKE A BREAK THIS SUMMER.
I'M ALREADY IN THE MIDDLE OF A TRIP YOU KNOW.
NOW THAT YOU MENTIONED IT—
SO, ANY PLANS FOR YOUR VACATION?
LIKE A TRIP OR SOMETHING?
BUT OF COURSE.
IS THE FUTURE A LIVING THING?
HMM... SOUNDS CREDIBLE, YET INCREDIBLE...

I'M NOT ONE OF THOSE PATHETIC PEOPLE WHO FEEL THE NEED TO PACK MY CALENDAR FULL WHEN I'M ON VACATION.
FWAP
WELL, FOR STARTERS, I WAS THINKING OF GOING TO THE COURAGE TEST TONIGHT.


DON'T TELL ME...
WHAT COURAGE TEST? WHERE?
Rise
OH, COME ON. WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!
SNAP
YOUR COURAGE TEST! THE ONE AT KAMIKUSA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL!!

...AND THERE YOU HAVE THE STORY.
NEVER MIND. LET'S JUST PRETEND WE DON'T KNOW HIM.
Obviously
Whisper
HEY, YAMAMURA.
ATTEN
Whoops

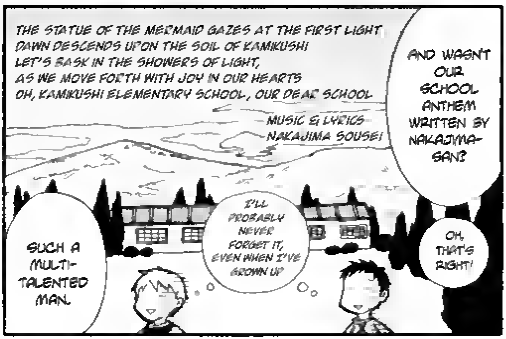
WHY DID YOU BRING AN OUTSIDER HERE?
THIS MAN HERE IS SOMEONE YOU KNOW, RIGHT?
I KNOW HIM, WHETHER I LIKE IT OR NOT. HE INVITED HIMSELF HERE.
UH-OH CAUGHT BY A FUSSY ONE...
and gleefully so, too
ALL RIGHT!
QUIET, NOW. WE'RE GOING TO BEGIN THE GHOST STORIES.
Wh what's wrong with this man?!
MURMUR MURMUR
HUH?
DROP
OH. MY. MY. MY. GRADE SCHOOLERS THESE DAYS SURE LOOK MATURE. SUCH A BEEEEEAUTIFUL GIRL!
WHATEVER THE CASE, I'M TAKING HIM TO THE TEACHERS.

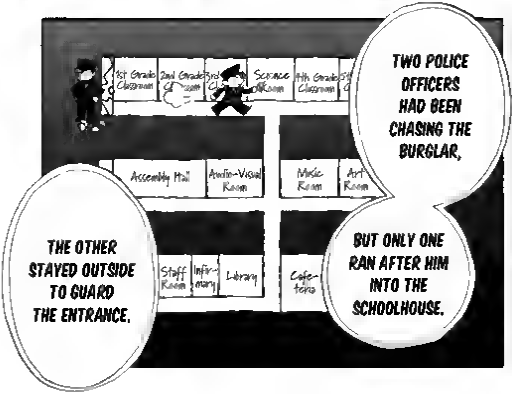
OK... DID YOU KNOW...
THAT IN THE PAST,
THIS SCHOOL WAS CALLED "THE MAN-EATING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL"?
NOT EXACTLY A SUITABLE CANDIDATE FOR TELLING GHOST STORIES, HUH?
THAT'S TRUE...
With Hoat cheery expires on on her face
IT'S WORKING. IT'S WORKING.
Beam
IS THAT LADY YOUR HOMEROOM TEACHER?
YEAH.
MURMUR
MURMUR
Really?
Did you know?
Must be Hoat guess!

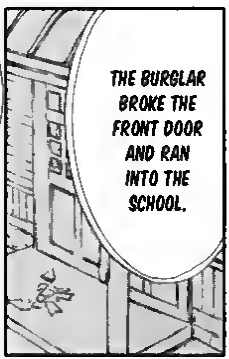
THE CHILDREN WERE AWAY ON VACATION AND LOOKING FORWARD TO STEPPING INTO A BRAND NEW BUILDING FOR SECOND SEMESTER.
IT HAPPENED TEN YEARS AGO. THE SCHOOL HAD BEEN REBUILT OVER SUMMER BREAK.
SENSEI,
WHY WAS THE MAN BEING PURSUED BY THE POLICE?
MUW MUW
MUW MUW
ONE NIGHT, A MAN BEING PURSUED BY THE POLICE...
RAN INTO THE EMPTY SCHOOL.
COMMOTION
Now that is scary, huh?
A burglar?!
Sniff
HE WAS A BURGLAR WHO HAD BROKEN INTO THE RESIDENCE...
OF SOMEONE WE ALL KNOW VERY WELL— NAKAJIMA SOUSEI-SAN.

YEAH. PROBABLY THE MOST FAMOUS PERSON IN THIS TOWN. HIS NICKNAME IS "THE LEONARDO DA VINCI OF KAMIKUSHI-CHOU".
IS HE THAT WELL-KNOWN?
OH, RIGHT!
THE MAN THEY SAY HIRED A CREW FROM OVERSEAS TO BUILD THE SCHOOL!
YOU KNOW. THAT MAN WHO DESIGNED AND BUILT OUR SCHOOL?
GAH, WHO'S THIS NAKAJIMA SOUSEI PERSON AGAIN?

ALL RIGHT, EVERYBODY. LISTEN UP.
Quiet—

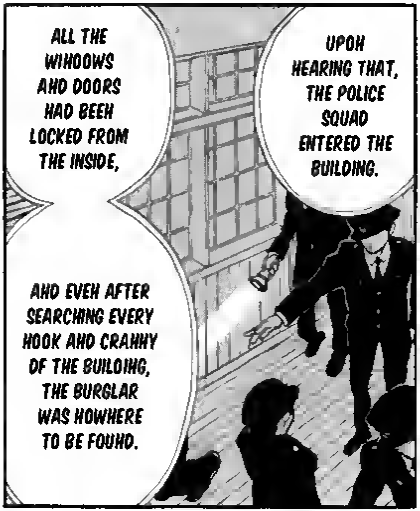

THE STATUE OF THE MERMAID GAZES AT THE FIRST LIGHT
DAWN DESCENDS UPON THE SOIL OF KAMIKUSHI
LET'S BASK IN THE SHOWERS OF LIGHT,
AS WE MOVE FORTH WITH JOY IN OUR HEARTS
OH, KAMIKUSHI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, OUR DEAR SCHOOL
MUSIC & LYRICS NAKAJIMA SOUSEI
AND WASN'T OUR SCHOOL ANTHEM WRITTEN BY NAKAJIMA-SAN?
OH, THAT'S RIGHT!
I'LL PROBABLY NEVER FORGET IT, EVEN WHEN I'VE GROWN UP
SUCH A MULTI-TALENTED MAN.


1st Grade Classroom
2nd Grade Classroom
Science Room
4th Grade Classroom
Assembly Hall
Audio-Visual Room
Music Room
Art Room
Staff Room
Infirmary
Library
Cafeteria
TWO POLICE OFFICERS HAD BEEN CHASING THE BURGLAR,
BUT ONLY ONE RAN AFTER HIM INTO THE SCHOOLHOUSE.
THE OTHER STAYED OUTSIDE TO GUARD THE ENTRANCE.


THE BURGLAR BROKE THE FRONT DOOR AND RAN INTO THE SCHOOL.

GUESS...
WHAT HE SAID.
AND THEN,
THE OFFICER WHO HAD BEEN SEARCHING INSIDE EMERGED.
WHEN REINFORCEMENTS ARRIVED,

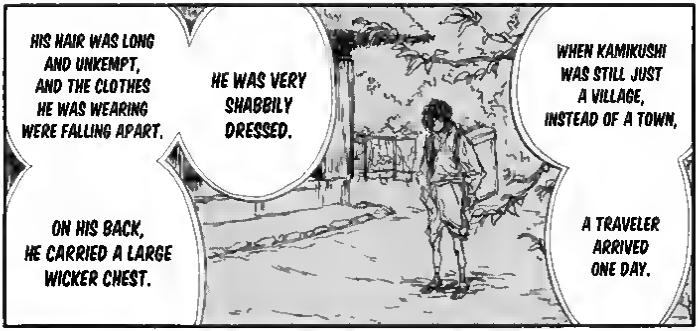
Silence
...
She's asking the shopkeeps...

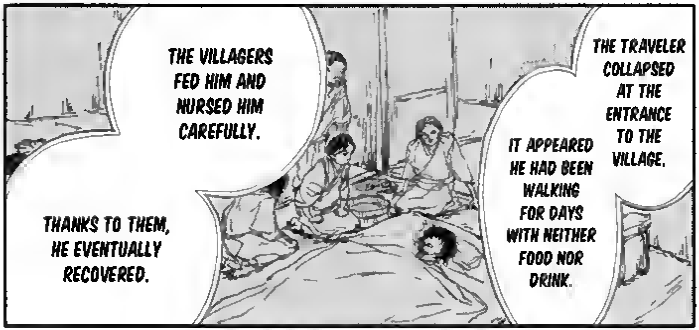

ALL THE WINDOWS AND DOORS HAD BEEN LOCKED FROM THE INSIDE,
UPON HEARING THAT, THE POLICE SQUAD ENTERED THE BUILDING.
AND EVEN AFTER SEARCHING EVERY NOOK AND CRANNY OF THE BUILDING, THE BURGLAR WAS NOWHERE TO BE FOUND.

"NOBODY WAS IN THERE."
WHAT HE SAID WAS,
THAT'S WHAT HE SAID.
Shoot! They're not falling for it

SILENCE
AND, YES, THE ATTIC HAD ALSO BEEN SEARCHED.
HE WASN'T THERE, EITHER.
THE SCHOOL HADN'T EVEN BEEN OPENED YET, SO YOU SEE,
THERE WASN'T A SINGLE THING A PERSON COULD HIDE IN.
DID THEY ALSO, LIKE, LOOK IN THE LOCKERS OR THE ATTIC?
MURMUR MURMUR
YET THAT'S JUST WHAT HE DID.
IT WAS AS IF HE HAD BEEN EATEN UP BY THE SCHOOL.
WHICHEVER WAY YOU LOOK AT IT, THERE WAS NO WAY THE BURGLAR COULD HAVE VANISHED.
CLAP CLAP CLAP
IT IS REALISTIC FOR SOMETHING OHARA-SENSEI MADE UP, HUH?
FROM THEN ON, THIS SCHOOL WAS KNOWN AS "THE MAN-EATING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL".
Made it~

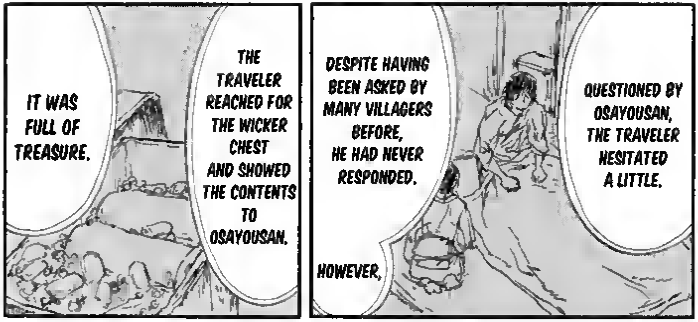
HUH?
THAT'S A TRUE STORY.
DIDN'T YOU KNOW?
NOW, LET'S HEAR FROM OUR VICE PRINCIPAL, ITOH KYOUTOU-SENSEI.
Mur-mur
Mur-mur
Oh...
SEEMS LIKE THAT WAS THE ONLY TIME SOMEONE VANISHED FROM THE SCHOOL, BUT...
TEN YEARS AGO, OTHER PEOPLE VANISHED. I HEARD ABOUT IT FROM MY MOM AND GRANDMA.
I'M GOING TO TELL YOU ABOUT SOMETHING THAT TOOK PLACE IN KAMIKUSHICHOU A LONG TIME AGO.
THE STORY OF THE MERMAID'S CURSE.
Like that?!
Huh? Is she going to tell it like that?
...
Wah!
Eek!

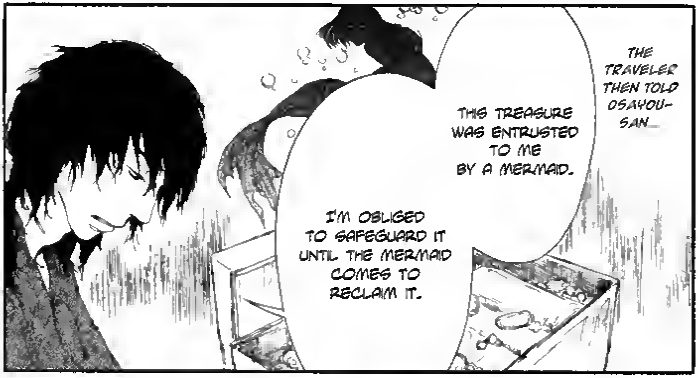

HIS HAIR WAS LONG AND UNKEMPT, AND THE CLOTHES HE WAS WEARING WERE FALLING APART.
HE WAS VERY SHABBILY DRESSED.
ON HIS BACK, HE CARRIED A LARGE WICKER CHEST.
WHEN KAMIKUSHI WAS STILL JUST A VILLAGE, INSTEAD OF A TOWN,
A TRAVELER ARRIVED ONE DAY.

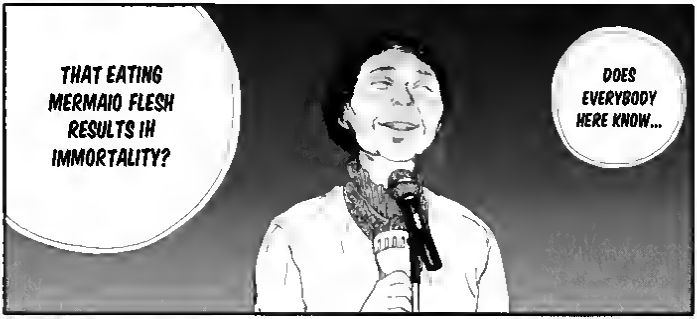

THE VILLAGERS FED HIM AND NURSED HIM CAREFULLY.
THANKS TO THEM, HE EVENTUALLY RECOVERED.
IT APPEARED HE HAD BEEN WALKING FOR DAYS WITH NEITHER FOOD NOR DRINK.
THE TRAVELER COLLAPSED AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE VILLAGE.

TELL ME,
WHAT IS IN THE WICKER CHEST YOU WERE CARRYING?
ONE DAY, OSAYOUSAN ASKED THE TRAVELER...

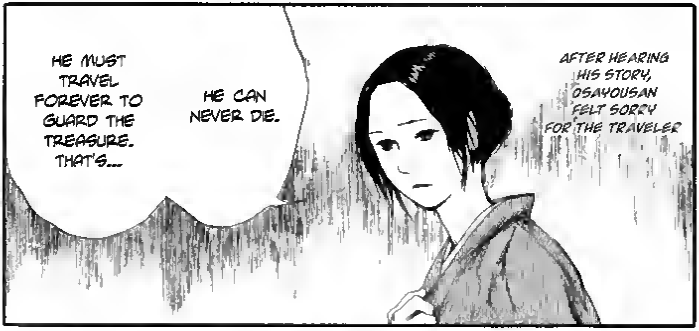
THERE WAS A YOUNG WOMAN BY THE NAME OF OSAYOUSAN, WHO WAS MORE TIRELESS IN CARING FOR HIM THAN THE OTHER VILLAGERS

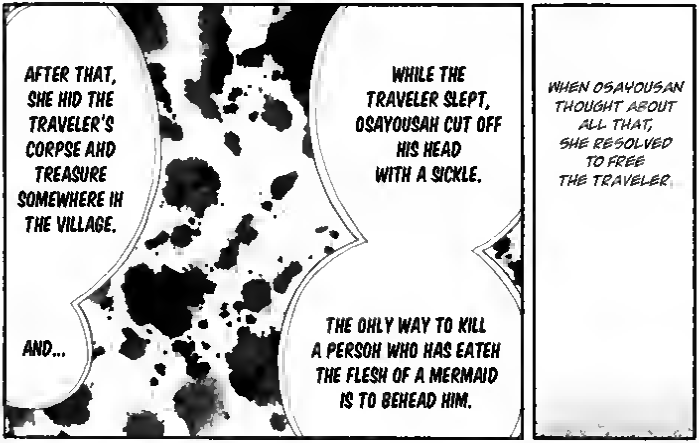

IT WAS FULL OF TREASURE.
THE TRAVELER REACHED FOR THE WICKER CHEST AND SHOWED THE CONTENTS TO OSAYOUSAN.
DESPITE HAVING BEEN ASKED BY MANY VILLAGERS BEFORE, HE HAD NEVER RESPONDED.
HOWEVER,
QUESTIONED BY OSAYOUSAN, THE TRAVELER HESITATED A LITTLE.


THE TRAVELER THEN TOLD OSAYOU-SAN...
THIS TREASURE WAS ENTRUSTED TO ME BY A MERMAID.
I'M OBLIGED TO SAFEGUARD IT UNTIL THE MERMAID COMES TO RECLAIM IT.


THAT EATING MERMAID FLESH RESULTS IN IMMORTALITY?
DOES EVERYBODY HERE KNOW...

SHE HAD GIVEH HIM ETERHAL LIFE IH ORDER TO HAVE HIM GUARD HER TREASURE.
WELL, THE TRAVELER HAD BEEH FORCED TO EAT THE MERMAID'S FLESH.

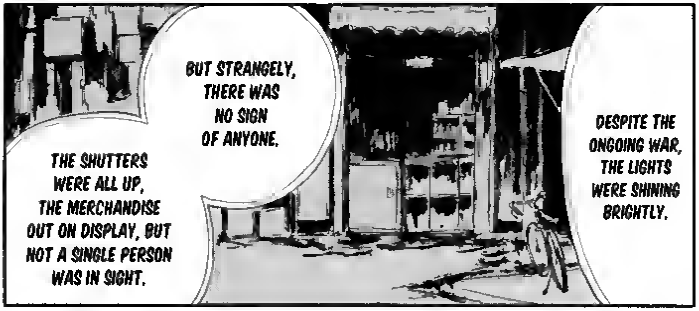

HE MUST TRAVEL FOREVER TO GUARD THE TREASURE. THAT'S...
HE CAH HEVER DIE.
AFTER HEARING HIS STORY, OSAYOUSAH FELT SORRY FOR THE TRAVELER


AFTER THAT, SHE HID THE TRAVELER'S CORPSE AHD TREASURE SOMEWHERE IH THE VILLAGE.
AND...
WHILE THE TRAVELER SLEPT, OSAYOUSAH CUT OFF HIS HEAD WITH A SICKLE.
THE OHLY WAY TO KILL A PERSOH WHO HAS EATEH THE FLESH OF A MERMAID IS TO BEHEAD HIM.
WHEH OSAYOUSAH THOUGHT ABOUT ALL THAT, SHE RESOLVED TO FREE THE TRAVELER.

Eek!
Argh!
IN SEARCH OF THE TREASURE HE MUST GUARD.
Loom
...FROM THAT DAY ON, WHENEVER THE MOON IS FULL,
THE HEADLESS TRAVELER ROAMS THE VILLAGE...
ON A MOONLIT NIGHT LIKE THIS,
THE HEADLESS TRAVELER ROAMS.
EVEN IN OUR TIME,
OH, IS THAT SO?
SCARY, HUH? WOMEN ARE....
SO THAT WAS THE TRAVELER OSAYOUSAN BEHEADED.
No! No!
Shudder
THEY SHOW UP IN CASTLE RUINS AND CEMETERIES, AND IN MYSTERIOUS FORESTS AND STUFF
I'VE HEARD ABOUT HEADLESS GHOSTS.
YEAH....

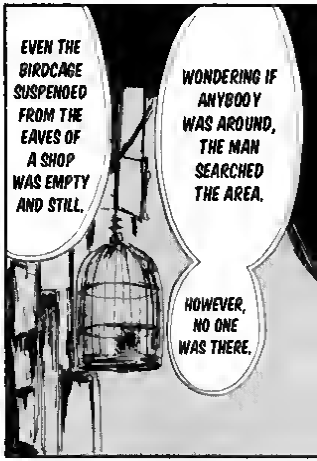
NEXT, WE HAVE OUR PRINCIPAL, YAMAKAWA KOUCHOU-SENSEI.
I'M GOING TO IGNORE THE OPINION OF SOMEONE "EXTRA-ORDINARY" LIKE HIM....
THEY SEEM WHOLLY LOVELY TO ME, THOUGH.
HE RARELY WORKED, NO MATTER HOW MUCH HIS WIFE CHIDED HIM, AND HE TURNED INTO A BULLYING SCOUNDREL WHENEVER HE DRANK.
THERE WAS A CERTAIN MAN IN THIS TOWN. IN SPITE OF THE WAR THAT WAS TAKING PLACE, THIS MAN LIVED HIS LIFE ONLY TO PLEASE HIMSELF.
THIS HAPPENED DURING THE WAR.
ONE NIGHT, THE MAN GOT DRUNK AS USUAL AND WAS WALKING ALONG THE STREETS.
HIS STAGGERING STEPS EVENTUALLY TOOK HIM TO KAMIKUSHI SHRINE,
WHERE HE FELL ASLEEP.

HE COULD HAVE SWORN HE HAD FALLEN ASLEEP AT THE SHRINE, YET HERE HE WAS, ON THE WALKWAY OF THE SHOPPING ARCADE IN FRONT OF THE STATION.
WHEN THE MAN AWOKE AND LOOKED AROUND HIM, HE WAS SHOCKED.


THE SHUTTERS WERE ALL UP, THE MERCHANDISE OUT ON DISPLAY, BUT NOT A SINGLE PERSON WAS IN SIGHT.
BUT STRANGELY, THERE WAS NO SIGN OF ANYONE.
DESPITE THE ONGOING WAR, THE LIGHTS WERE SHINING BRIGHTLY.

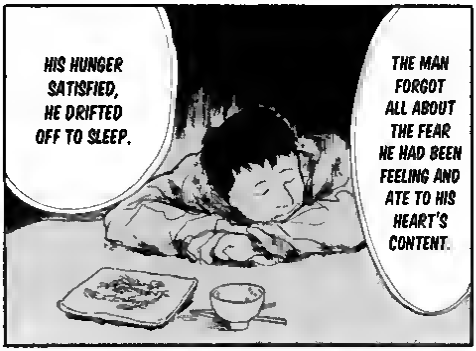
EXCEPT, NOT A SINGLE SOUL WAS AROUND.
TO HEAR HIM

HORRIFIED BY THE THOUGHT, THE MAN SCREAMED!
HAS JAPAN LOST THE WAR? IS EVERYBODY DEAD NOW?

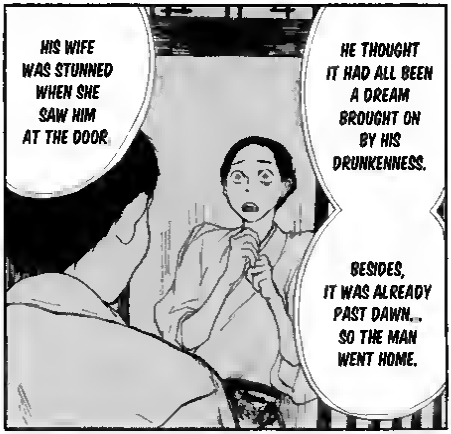

EVEN THE BIRDCAGE SUSPENDED FROM THE EAVES OF A SHOP WAS EMPTY AND STILL.
WONDERING IF ANYBODY WAS AROUND, THE MAN SEARCHED THE AREA.
HOWEVER, NO ONE WAS THERE.

WHEN HE ENTERED THE RESTAURANT, HE WAS GREETED BY A BOWL OF RICE AND A PLATE OF GRILLED FISH SITTING ON THE TABLE.
THE MAN THEN CAUGHT A WHIFF OF AROMA COMING FROM A RESTAURANT NEARBY.

THERE HE WAS AGAIN, BACK AT KAMIKUSHI SHRINE.
WHEN HE AWAKENED,


HIS HUNGER SATISFIED, HE DRIFTED OFF TO SLEEP.
THE MAN FORGOT ALL ABOUT THE FEAR HE HAD BEEN FEELING AND ATE TO HIS HEART'S CONTENT.

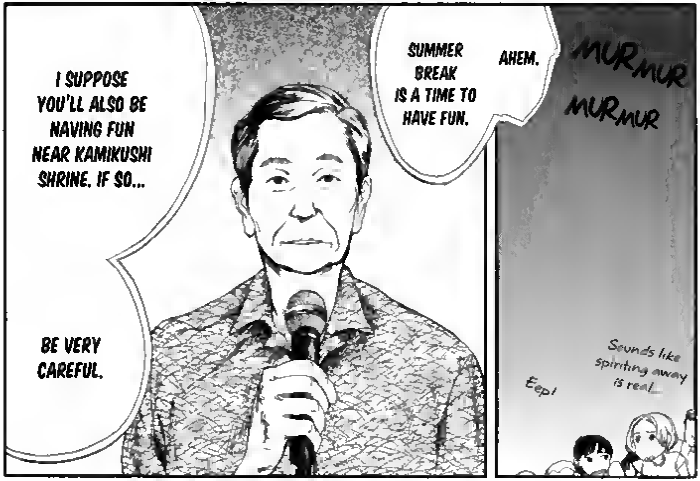
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN ALL THIS TIME?
YOU—

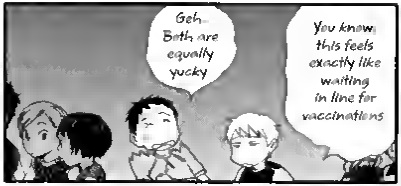

HIS WIFE WAS STUNNED WHEN SHE SAW HIM AT THE DOOR.
HE THOUGHT IT HAD ALL BEEN A DREAM BROUGHT ON BY HIS DRUNKENNESS.
BESIDES, IT WAS ALREADY PAST DAWN... SO THE MAN WENT HOME.

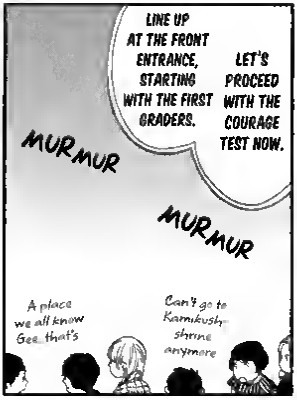
NOBODY BELIEVED THAT.
I HAD A FEW DRINKS LAST NIGHT...
AND SLEPT AT KAMIKUSHI SHRINE UNTIL SUNRISE.
NON-SENSE!

BEWILDERED, THE MAN QUESTIONED HIS WIFE AND WAS TOLD HE HADN'T BEEN HOME FOR A WEEK.

EVERYONE AROUND HIM SAID HE HAD PROBABLY BEEN SPIRITED AWAY TO ANOTHER WORLD
LET ALONE HIS STORY ABOUT THE COMPLETELY DESERTED SHOPPING ARCADE


I SUPPOSE YOU'LL ALSO BE HAVING FUN NEAR KAMIKUSHI SHRINE. IF SO...
BE VERY CAREFUL.
SUMMER BREAK IS A TIME TO HAVE FUN.
AHEM.
MURMUR
MURMUR
Eep!
Sounds like spirting away is real...


Geh... Both are equally yucky
You know, this feels exactly like waiting in line for vaccinations

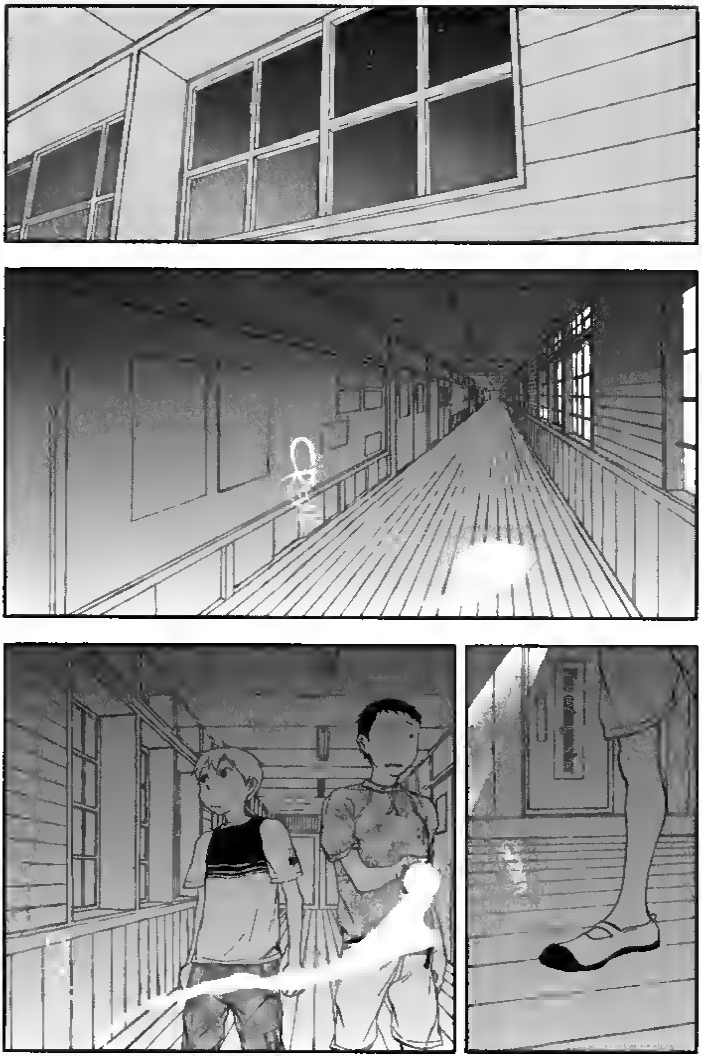

LINE UP AT THE FRONT ENTRANCE, STARTING WITH THE FIRST GRADERS.
LET'S PROCEED WITH THE COURAGE TEST NOW.
MURMUR
MURMUR
A place we all know Gee, that's
Can't go to Kamikoshi shrine anymore

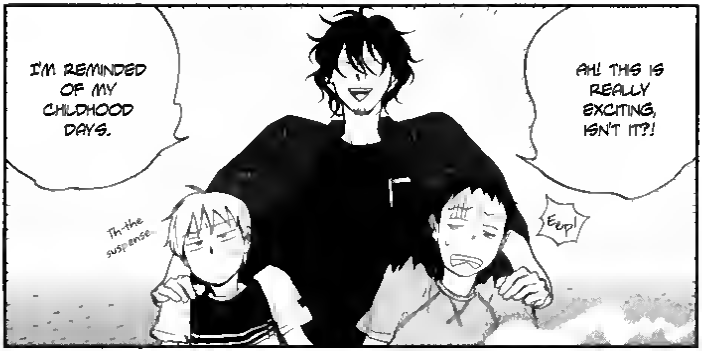
ALL RIGHT, NEXT PLEA—

CREEEEEAK
Thump
Thump
ALL RIGHT! HERE GOES!!

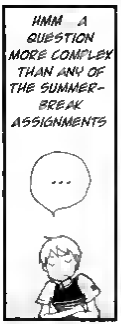
Have a safe trip!
...

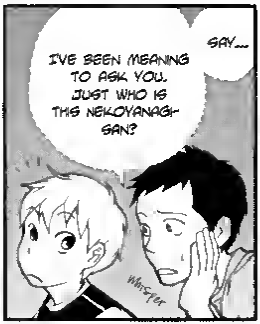
YIKES! YOU SCARED ME!
Watch that you don't get eaten up by the school.
Is everything going to be OK?




I'M REMINDED OF MY CHILDHOOD DAYS.
Th-the suspense.
AH! THIS IS REALLY EXCITING, ISN'T IT?!
Eep!

THAT WAS ALL I COULD MANAGE
HE'S... A MIRAIYA.


HMM A QUESTION MORE COMPLEX THAN ANY OF THE SUMMER-BREAK ASSIGNMENTS
...

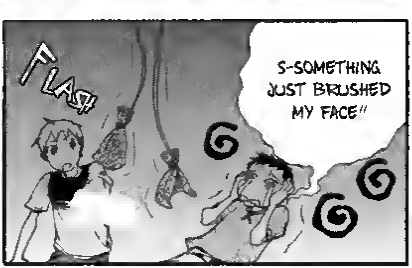

SAY...
I'VE BEEN MEANING TO ASK YOU. JUST WHO IS THIS NEKOYANAGI-SAN?
Whisper

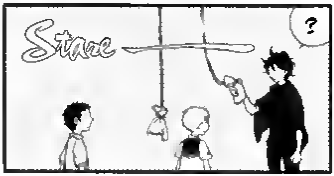
COME. NOW. ONWARD!!
A miraiya...?
...
LIFE IS MORE ENJOYABLE IF YOU DON'T SWEAT THE SMALL STUFF

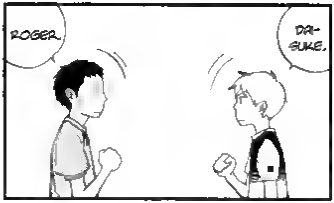
CLATTER.
RATTLE RATTLE
THE WOODEN SCHOOLHOUSE INFUSED WITH THE AROMA OF SCHOOL LUNCHES.
AH, THE GOOD OLD DAYS.

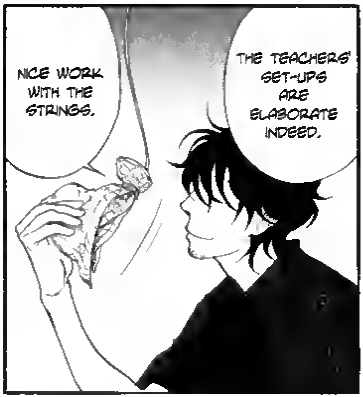
SWISH
WAH!
EEEEEEEEK!
SWISH

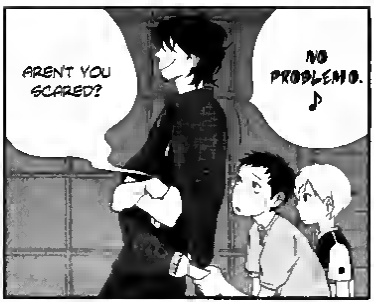
A... A RAG?


FLASH
S-SOMETHING JUST BRUSHED MY FACE!!


Stare
?


ROGER.
DA-SUKE.


NICE WORK WITH THE STRINGS.
THE TEACHERS' SET-UPS ARE ELABORATE INDEED.



*manjuu–Japanese-style bun stuffed with red bean paste

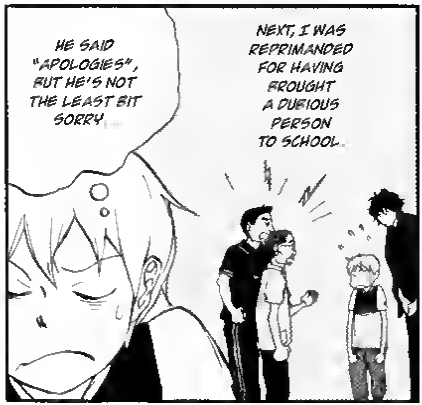
*Urameshiyaa — a set phrase that ghosts in Japanese fiction say when they appear. Literally it means "I'm resentful."

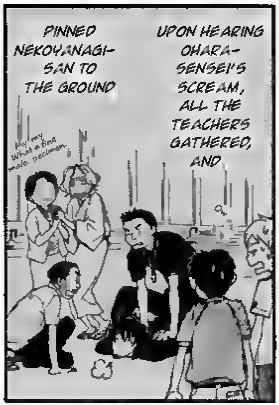
U-
U-
Where?
Where
Ura-
meshi-
yaa~
UH—
HMM?
No reaction...
...
Obara's sense...
!!
I did it!
NIMBLY
OH, NO!
Scary face!
This won't do
This won't do
I'm
Sooo
scared!
Aaarrrgh!
Blush~

Is anything bothering you?
?
HUH?
FIRM
LY
Nekoyanagi Kennosuke, a miraiya, at your service.
If there is anything troubling you, please tell me.
It would be my great pleasure to be of assistance by giving you a happy future.
Come, now. Please.
You can talk to me about anything!
UNDERSERVED
GASP
UHM... WELL...

EEEEEEEK!

BUT I JUST CAN'T TURN A BLIND EYE TO A BEAUTY IN DISTRESS.
THIS HAS TO DO WITH ME BEING A BONA-FIDE GENTLEMAN, I GUESS.
Te-hee!
OH, MY, MY. I SURE MESSED THAT UP!
APOLOGIES APOLOGIES


HE SAID "APOLOGIES", BUT HE'S NOT THE LEAST BIT SORRY.
NEXT, I WAS REPRIMANDED FOR HAVING BROUGHT A DUBIOUS PERSON TO SCHOOL.


PINNED NEKOYANAGI-SAN TO THE GROUND
UPON HEARING OHARA-SENSEI'S SCREAM, ALL THE TEACHERS GATHERED, AND
Hey hey. What a first week, huh man?

STILL, YOUR SCHOOL'S REALLY INTERESTING, HUH, FUJITA-KUN?
NO, NOT JUST THE SCHOOL—

ALL OF KAMIKUSHICHOU, WITH ITS INNUMERABLE MYSTERIES, IS FASCINATING.
I'M GLAD I CAME TO THIS TOWN.

...

WHEN POCHI DISAPPEARED THE OTHER DAY,
YOU SOLVED THE MYSTERY BY FIRST STIPULATING, "THERE'S NO WAY AN OBJECT CAN DISAPPEAR." ISN'T THAT RIGHT, NEKOYANAGI-SAN?
ACCORDING TO OHARA-SENSEI'S GHOST STORY, SOMEONE SUDDENLY DISAPPEARED FROM THE SCHOOLHOUSE.
BUT THERE'S NO WAY A HUMAN BEING CAN VANISH, IS THERE?
SO DO YOU KNOW THE ANSWER TO THE MYSTERY?

ACTUALLY, I'D LIKE TO HEAR WHAT THE FAMOUS YOUNG DETECTIVE WHO HAS TO SAY.
...

SO IN OTHER WORDS, A CHALLENGE TO WHO.
OH, I SEE...

YOU'RE ON!
GOTCHA!

ぼくと未来星の夏
Don't you want to know the Future?